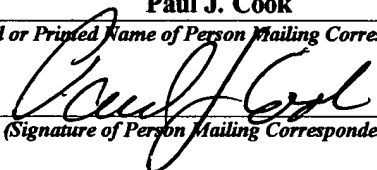


41

Used not listed 17.64 \$

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY FIRST CLASS MAIL (37 CFR 1.8)			Docket No.	
Applicant(s): Ralph Stankowski et Al.			200100250	
Serial No. 09/660,795 /	Filing Date 09/13/2000	Examiner Robert J. Pop vic	Group Art Unit 1724	
Invention: PROCESS AND FILTER FOR FILTERING A SLURRY				
<div style="text-align: right;">RECEIVED AUG 12 2003 TC 1700</div>				
<p>I hereby certify that this <u>Amendment</u> <small>(Identify type of correspondence)</small></p> <p>is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:</p> <p>Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450</p> <p>on <u>July 23, 2003</u> <small>(Date)</small></p> <div style="text-align: right;"><p><u>Paul J. Cook</u> <small>(Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence)</small></p><p> <small>(Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence)</small></p></div>				
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Attorney Docket No.: 200100250

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Ralph Stankowski et Al.

SERIAL NO.: 09/660,795

FILED: 09/13/2000

EXAMINER: Robert J. Popovics

GROUP ART UNIT: 1724

TITLE: PROCESS AND FILTER FOR FILTERING A SLURRY

RECEIVED
AUG 12 2003
TC 1700

*Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231*

Sir:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 13, line 28, replace "51" with -50-.

Page 13, line 30, replace "atop" with -a top-.

AMENDMENT

Responsive to the Office Action of March 26, 2003, please enter the following amendments and remarks. Please amend the application as follows.

5. (Currently Amended) The process for filtering a slurry to remove undesirably large particles from said slurry which comprises:

passing a slurry through an inlet to a filtration cartridge, through a conduit positioned within a filtration cartridge comprising the conduit, a housing, a depth filter positioned within said housing and an outlet and from said conduit through said depth filter,

said cartridge being free of an open void volume which causes separation of particles from said slurry upstream of a top surface of said depth filter in contact with said slurry,

said depth filter comprising depth filter segments separated by annular spacers and recovering a filtered slurry which has passed through said depth filter from said outlet of said filtration cartridge.

6. (Original) The process of Claim 5 wherein said depth filter segments are selected from the group consisting of a wound depth filter comprising nonwoven fibers, a stack of sheets wherein each sheet comprises nonwoven fibers and a fibrous mass of nonwoven polymeric fibers secured together by mechanical entanglement of the fibers.

7. (Original) The process of Claim 5 wherein said slurry is selected from the group consisting of a silica-based slurry, an alumina-based slurry, a ceria-based slurry, a diamond-based slurry and a MnO_2 -based slurry, a cell broth, a photoresist chemical, a fermentation liquid, blood, a blood fraction and a transgenic liquid.

8. (Original) The process of Claim 5 wherein said slurry is selected from the group consisting of a silica-based slurry, an alumina-based slurry, a ceria-based slurry, a diamond-based slurry and a MnO_2 -based slurry.

9. (Original) The process of Claim 5 wherein said slurry is selected from the group consisting of a cell broth, a photoresist chemical, a fermentation liquid, blood, a blood fraction and a transgenic liquid.

REMARKS

Claims 5-9 have been rejected under 35 USC 112 since the use of the phrase "said cartridge being free of an open void volume which causes separation of particles from said slurry upstream of a top surface of said depth filter in contact with said" is not understood. As pointed out by the Examiner, the volume through which arrow 31 passes is, prior to use of the filtration cartridge, an open void volume upstream of "said depth filter". However, when the slurry to be filtered is introduced into the filtration cartridge, air is forced from the cartridge and replaced by the slurry. Since the inlet to the first filter segment, 20 (Fig. 1) has the same area and configuration of the first-contacted surface of the first filter segment, no air is entrapped between the slurry and the first contacted surface of the first filter segment. When utilizing a configuration wherein an inlet is smaller